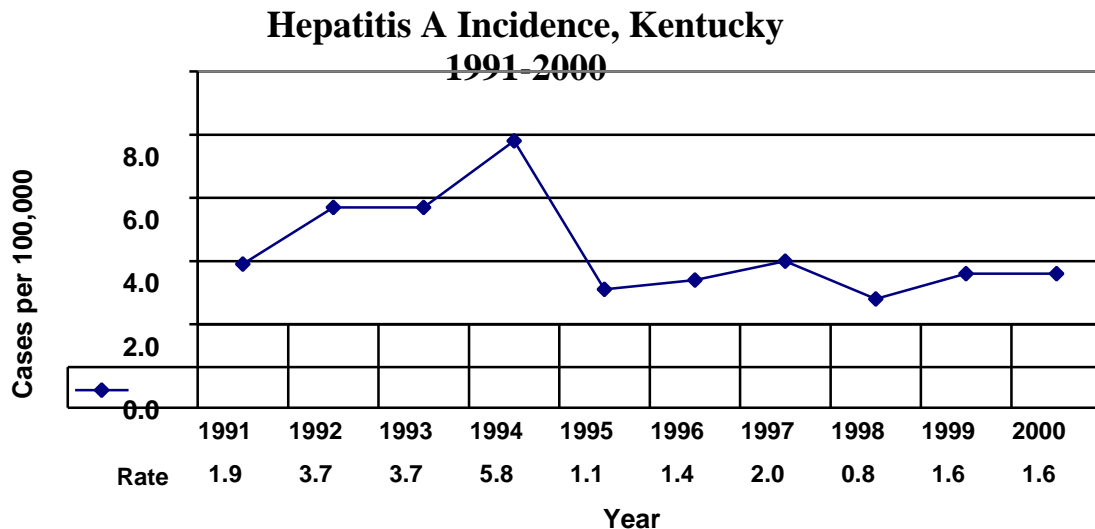


HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A is an illness caused by the hepatitis A virus. It is characterized by abrupt onset of fever, malaise, nausea, abdominal discomfort, and fatigue, followed within a few days by jaundice. Severity of illness is highly variable and can be milder or asymptomatic in young children. Severity varies from person to person, but the mortality rate is low ranging from 0.1% to 0.3%. The virus is transmitted person to person by the fecal-oral route. Poor environmental sanitation, poor personal hygiene, and close personal contact promote transmission. Common source outbreaks have been related to contaminated water, food contaminated by infected food handlers, raw and undercooked mollusks taken from contaminated water, and contaminated produce.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- IgM anti-HAV positive serology



Incidence in Kentucky

2000

Number of Cases

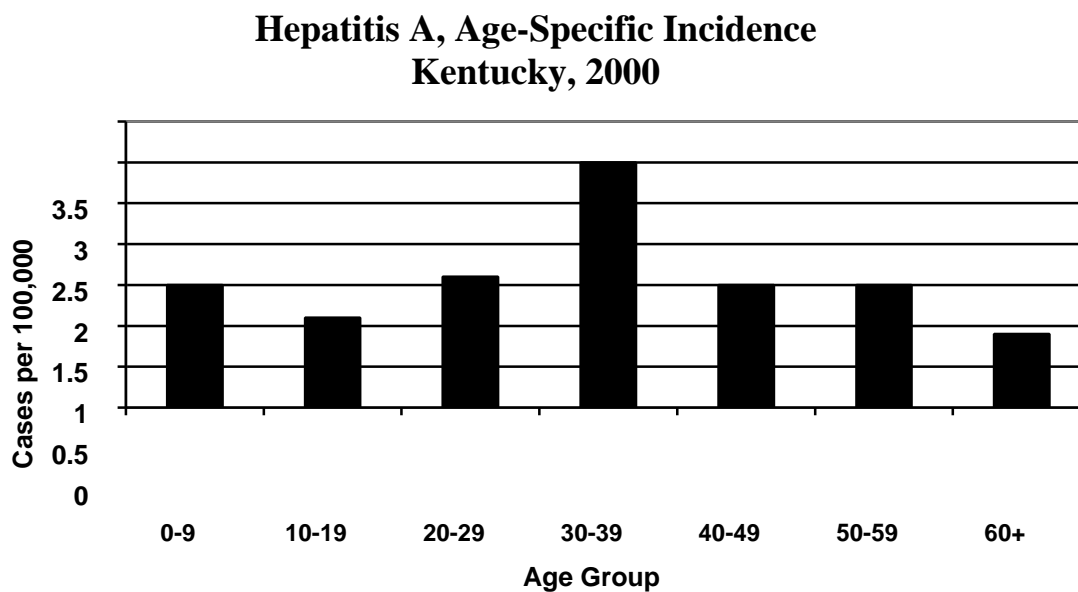
63

Rate per 100,000

1.6

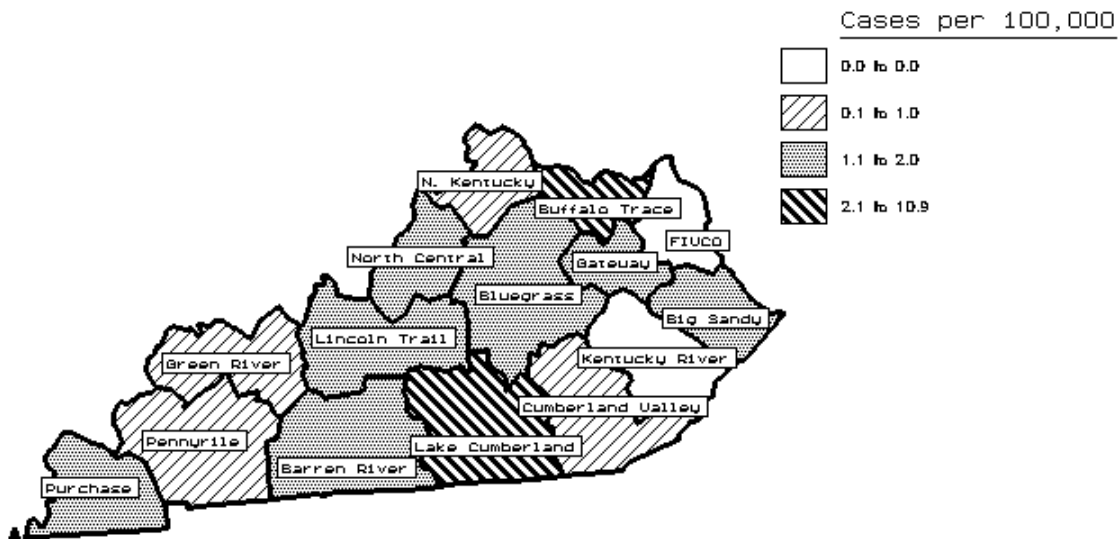
	2000
Rate by Gender	
Female	0.7
Male	2.5
Rate by Race (per 100,000)	
White	1.3
Black	0.3

In 2000 race was unknown for 12 cases, and was listed as other for 3 cases.



The reported incidence continues to be highest in the 30-39 year age group. The rate in the 0-9 year range increased more than 2 fold over the last two years with 8 cases, 2 that were less than 1 year of age.

Hepatitis A by District, Kentucky 2000



Three outbreaks were reported in 2000, one each in Lincoln Trail, Buffalo Trace and Lake Cumberland Districts. The highest incidence rate, 10.9 cases per 100,000 occurred in Buffalo Trace District. All 6 of the cases in this district were outbreak associated, with three cases 5 years of age or younger. The Lake Cumberland District had a rate of 6.32 per 100,000. Eight of the 12 cases reported were outbreak associated. No cases were reported from the Fivco or Kentucky River Area Development Districts in 2000.